



2

## ARNI'S ADDENDUM

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### Budget notes, and more

#### President's 2014 budget proposes NEA funding increase

President Obama sent his fiscal year 2014 budget proposal to Congress recently, requesting \$154,466 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

This figure represents an increase of almost \$8.5 million over the NEA's FY2013 budget, before sequestration took effect on March 1. Under sequestration, the NEA is operating with a budget of about \$139 million for the remainder of FY2013.

The president's request mirrors last year's, when the administration also urged Congress to fund the NEA at \$154 million; but this year it is especially supportive given the considerable pressure sequestration places on the fed-

eral government to reduce federal spending.

With the president's budget formally

released, Congress is expected to begin work quickly on budget bills for FY2014. Though not scheduled yet, the House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees are expected to hear testimony related to the NEA's budget in the next few weeks.

— **Courtesy of Issac Brown, Legislative Counsel, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**



Beck McLaughlin  
(Photo by Herb Windsor)

#### Beck McLaughlin, MAC's arts education director, announces retirement

Beck McLaughlin just announced her upcoming retirement to the staff, effective the end of May. MAC will wait until the legislative budgeting process concludes to begin work on refilling this position.

Knowing that arts education is one of the most important things we do, we are going to miss Beck like crazy. We have been in awe

of her ability to surpass all expectations, do things exactly on time, deliver exactly what she says she will, and create ever-fresh ideas for how to do things more effectively and of greater public value.

She has accomplished enormous feats each year. She has helped Montana build a national reputation for outstanding arts education programming.

### Springboard for the Arts provides guides to healthcare

Healthcare reform is on its way, and the changes will affect artists across Montana. With more than one in three artists inadequately insured nationwide, it's especially important to start educating ourselves on the new legal requirement to have health insurance by 2014.

Springboard for the Arts has compiled information from government and private sector sources to help you answer questions like:

- Who must have health insurance?
- What health insurance must I have?
- What's the annual fine for not having health insurance?
- What's a health insurance exchange?
- How much will I pay for health insurance on the exchange?

For answers to these questions and more, go to [www.springboardforthearts.org/health/getting-insured-by-2014/](http://www.springboardforthearts.org/health/getting-insured-by-2014/).

## Montana Main Street Program awards project grants

The Montana Department of Commerce is awarding a total of nearly \$36,000 to five Montana Main Street (MMS) communities, one of which is a brand new member to the program. The previously enrolled communities of Glendive/Dawson County, Shelby, Terry and Whitehall will receive grants, along with the newest affiliate, the City of Helena.

The Montana Main Street program is dedicated to bettering the economic, historic and cultural vitality of Montana downtowns through community development, revitalization and historic preservation. MMS fosters grassroots efforts through coordination and technical assistance, focused on a comprehensive approach to restoring healthy commercial districts and preserving the historic structures that contribute to Montana's unique sense of place.

The Affiliate Community tier allows all eligible communities the opportunity to learn and develop the Main Street Four Point Approach™ while accessing the resources and services of the program network. This tier is designed for communities entering the program and in the early stages of organization and capacity building.

Helena's Main Street efforts will be led by the city's Community Development Department, Helena Business Improvement District, and Downtown Helena, Inc. Other organizations associated with the downtown are encouraged to participate in the process of strengthening the district through long-range planning and more specific prioritized projects.

"The new Helena Main Street project is a collaboration of organizations, businesses and residents, as part of a larger effort to maintain and grow the economic vitality of the downtown commercial district," said Meg O'Leary, director of the Montana Department of Commerce.

Helena is the 20th member of the state program after successfully completing an application for membership and demonstrating a dedication to the downtown district.

"Helena demonstrated a clear vision for their downtown revitalization efforts and significant accomplishments in the downtown to build upon, and it collected a flood of membership support letters that represented a wide range of downtown business and tourism groups, local independent businesses, and historic and cultural institutions," said Tash Wisemiller, coordinator of MMS.

#### FY2013 Montana Main Street Grants (to date):

**Helena:** \$7,500 to conduct a property tax analysis and revenue mapping project to better understand the value of downtown development and investments made in the downtown commercial district.

**Glendive/Dawson County:** \$15,000 to help the city of Glendive, in coordination with Dawson County, update its existing growth policy in response to recent significant regional economic growth related to oil and gas development.

**Shelby:** \$3,000 for the creation of a historical walking tour in the Main Street business district and adjacent historic neighborhoods.

**Terry:** \$1,500 for the continuation and completion of a growth policy to plan for sustained growth and promote regional economic development.

**Whitehall:** \$8,800 to assist in the creation of an urban renewal tax increment finance district to address blight, promote investment in streetscape beautification, and generate a funding source for infrastructure improvement.

#### Affiliate update: Deer Lodge

The most recent affiliate member to be accepted into the program in June 2012 was the City of Deer Lodge. The community has since begun major planning efforts, spearheaded by the Deer Lodge Development Group, to restore the historic Hotel Deer Lodge, filling the vacant building with an operating hotel and retail space along main street.

The larger plan aims to strengthen the downtown commercial core, save the landmark historic buildings from disrepair, and connect the downtown with the wealth of historic and cultural attractions in the area.

The Deer Lodge Development Group submitted a successful application to the Montana Office of Tourism, resulting in a \$30,000 grant award to create a smartphone self-guided walking tour of the historic downtown.

For more information on the Montana Main Street Program, visit [mtmainstreet.mt.gov](http://mtmainstreet.mt.gov).



Rob Quist and Richard Matoon were among the musicians joining Jack Gladstone (right) in a concert at the C.M. Russell Museum. (Photo courtesy of the museum)

### Heritage Award (from page 1)

Gladstone told a local television station that the award is "the biggest compliment of my artistic life thus far."

The Heritage Award may be given in several areas, including history, literature, preservation, music and the arts. Previous recipients include Canadian singer-songwriter Ian Tyson in 2009; Ginger Renner in 2010 for her tireless support of the museum and her work as a

noted C.M. Russell expert; and cowboy poet and singer-songwriter Red Steagall in 2011. Last year's winner was Rick Stewart, former director and curator of western paintings and sculpture at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, TX, and curator of "Romance Maker: The Watercolors of Charles M. Russell," which was on display at the Russell Museum last year.

## STATE OF THE ARTS

*State of the Arts* is published six times a year by the Montana Arts Council and produced by *Lively Times*.

*State of the Arts* welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

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**Deadline:** The deadline for submissions is May 25, 2013, for the July/August 2013 issue. Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov).

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